

REMARKS

The specification is revised to add section headings as required by the Examiner.

The rejection of Claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is noted. In response to that rejection, Claim 6 is revised to remove "optionally multiple part".

Furthermore, Claims 7 and 8 are revised to remove ", e.g., optically, magnetically, electrically, or by touch". Although the Examiner did not include that wording in the rejection as being indefinite, the term "e.g." (meaning "for example") could have made those claims subject to an assertion of being indefinite.

Likewise, the Applicant is amending Claim 9 to replace the "and/or" wording in the second line of that claim. In place of that wording, the claim now reads "...in that at least one of the packaging enclosure (9) or the carrier (8)...". These amendments to Claim 9, as well as the above-discussed amendments of Claims 6-8, are submitted to clarify the meanings of those claims.

The Examiner questions the meaning of "receiving" in Claim 6, lines 3 and 4. That term appears in the phrase "...for receiving and fixing the holding points...". Although the Applicant believes the original wording of Claim 6 makes clear that "receiving" and "fixing" both refer to the holding points of the cable harness, the preamble of that claim now provides explicit antecedent basis for the holding points mentioned in the last line of the claims.

Claims 6-8 and 10 stand rejected as anticipated by *Tsuji* (US 5,230,146). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and the interpretation of *Tsuji* on which the rejection is based.

First of all, Claim 6 recites packaging for a cable harness, but no packaging a cable harness is disclosed in *Tsuji*. That reference discloses only a method and an apparatus for assembling a wire harness, not for packaging wire harness post-assembly. Although the rejection mentions a "packaging enclosure 41" (Fig. 8 of *Tsuji*), element 41 actually is a box-shaped casing of the jig 40 which contains the moveable wire cutters 42 for cutting the wire 10. Please see column 7, lines 58-61, and following lines 62 - column 8, line 23, of *Tsuji*.

The rejection also asserts that *Tsuji* discloses an optionally multiple part, template-like carrier (holding frame 16 and rollers 18 in Fig. 3), and that the "carrier 18" contacts the "packaging enclosure 41". The rejection goes on to state that the "carrier 18" has "fixing points for receiving" and fixing holding points (21) of the cable harness 10. The Applicant traverses this further interpretation of *Tsuji*. Keeping in mind that *Tsuji* discloses assembling (but not packaging) a wire harness, elements 18 are rollers that pull wires 10a - 10l out from respective reels. Please see column 5, lines 48-53 and Fig. 2 of *Tsuji*. However, the rollers 18 do not contact and are not fixed to contacts and fixings (whether or not necessary) of a packaging enclosure, as required by Claim 6. Keeping in mind that *Tsuji* fails to disclose any packaging enclosure, that reference lacks both the structure and the function of fixing points fixed to contacts or fixings of a packaging enclosure.

Moreover, the rollers 18 of *Tsuji* are not fixed to any holding points of the cable harness 10 or the wires making up that harness. Instead, *Tsuji* requires a means 20 comprising a vertical rod 21 and a cover 22 to bend each of the main wires downward at a required position between adjacent rollers 18 (column 5, lines 61-66). Thus, in *Tsuji*

the rollers 18 pull the wires out from the reels 15 to a certain arrangement, after which the structure of Figs. 4-6 is lowered to form the branch wires. None of this disclosure in *Tsuji*, however, is relevant to packaging a cable harness.

The present invention starts where *Tsuji* ends, namely, by packaging a cable harness after that harness is formed. *Tsuji* lacks a carrier having fixing points for receiving and fixing holding points of a cable harness, and that reference has the other anticipatory shortcomings noted above. Accordingly, Claim 6 defines novelty over *Tsuji*.

Regarding Claim 7, the rejection asserts that "carrier 18" (i.e., *Tsuji*'s rollers) has markings which allow the packaging for unpackaging device to identify the position of the carrier and fixing points. In fact, no markings of the kind are disclosed in *Tsuji*. The rollers 18 merely rotate to draw the wires from their supply reels; those rollers do not move relative to any packaging or unpacking device (*Tsuji* discloses no packaging or unpacking) and the rollers lack any markings to identify their positions. Moveable rod 21, said to disclose this feature of the claimed invention, moves separately from the rollers 18 to draw the wire downwardly, forming the branch wires therein. The rod 20 thus does not constitute disclosure of markings, which allow a packaging device or unpacking device to identify the position of the carrier and its fixing points. For this additional reason, Claim 7 is novel over *Tsuji*.

Turning to Claim 8, the rejection asserts that the vertical rod 21 and associated elements of *Tsuji* "represent markings" which allow "packaging device or unpacking device" to identify the position of the "carrier and its fixing points". However, no such apparatus may be found in *Tsuji*. Claim 8 calls for "holding points (12) of the cable harness (1)", but the rods 21 of *Tsuji* are a part of his harness-assembly apparatus, not of

a previously - formed cable harness. Furthermore, *Tsuji's* rods 21 do not "represent" markings, which, as required by Claim 8, "allow the packaging device or unpacking device (3) to identify the position of the carrier and its fixing points. Rods 21 in *Tsuji* merely move up and down along a predetermined path, forming loops in the wires. Because *Tsuji* does not disclose any packaging apparatus, nothing in that reference represents markings which allow a packaging/unpacking device to identify the position of a carrier and its fixing points. For these additional reasons, Claim 8 is novel over *Tsuji*.

Claim 10 further characterizes the packaging in that the fixing points for the holding points (12) are cut-outs in the carrier (8). The rejection asserts that the space between rollers 18 of *Tsuji*, which permit up/down movement of the rods 21, are cut-outs in the "carrier (18)". The Applicant traverses this interpretation of *Tsuji*. The rollers 8 of that reference lack *any* fixing points, for receiving and fixing holding points (again, not disclosed in *Tsuji*) of the cable harness. Characterizing the space between *Tsuji's* rollers 18 as cut-outs does not make fixing points of those spaces. Claim 10 thus is novel over *Tsuji*.

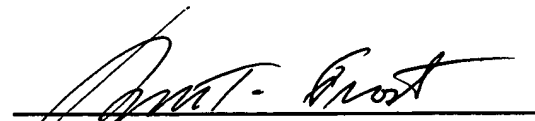
Claim 9 is rejected as unpatentable over *Tsuji*. The rejection asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted *Tsuji's* enclosure 41 by having a corrugated cardboard enclosure. According to rejection that substitution would be a matter of engineering design chose in order to use a lighter enclosure and make it easier for moving the enclosure around. However, that discussion overlooks that fact that *Tsuji* does not disclose any kind of packaging for a cable harness. The box-shaped casing 41 of *Tsuji* (Fig. 8) is a part of his apparatus for forming a wire harness and that casing receives moveable cutters 42 during the wire-cutting process (column 8, lines

5-9). Given that purpose and function of *Tsuji's* casing 41, it seems doubtful that a design engineer would choose corrugated cardboard for the casing. Lightness of weight would not be a design consideration, as the casing 41 is an integral part of the *Tsuji's* cutting assembly and would not be moved from place to place. In any case, because *Tsuji* discloses no packaging of a cable harness, the Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill would not find it obvious nor desirable to fabricate the casing 41 with corrugated cardboard. Moreover, even assuming that material were chosen, that choice alone fails to overcome the above-discussed disclosure and teaching deficiencies of *Tsuji* relative to the overall combination defined by Claim 9.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and solicits a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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